

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the current Application is in condition for allowance except for a few formal matters. In particular, the Examiner states that the references to “pseudo-hole” and “layer (final layer)” need to be modified. These phrases appear in Claims 11 and 12.

Accordingly, Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to address Examiner’s concerns. Claims 1-10, 22, and 23 stand previously canceled. Claims 11-21 and 24-29 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by applicant to overcome each of the Examiner’s outstanding rejections to current Claims 11-21 and 24-29. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

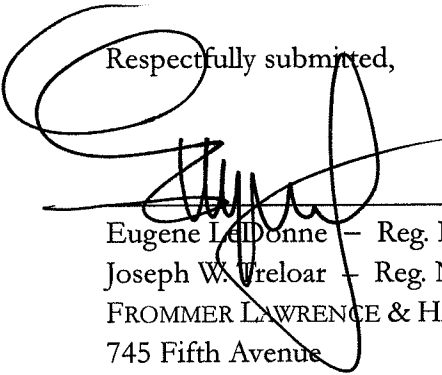
I. THE APPLICATION IS NOW IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE

As stated above, Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to address Examiner’s concerns. More specifically, the references to “pseudo-hole” (which appear in Claims 11 and 12) have been amended to read “an absence of material or a small amount of material of the planar extending article in the beam path”, as introduced earlier in Claims 11 and 12, and as stated in paragraph [0031] of the Specification. In addition, the reference to “the layer (final layer)” (which appears in Claim 12) has been amended to read “a final layer” as requested by Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are now in proper form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in the above referenced case.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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